Figuration and configuration of abstract imagery in contemporary psychology.

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Abstract

This essay explores the dynamics of figuration and configuration of abstract imagery within the framework of contemporary psychology, focusing on the mechanism of consciousness as an interpretive apparatus that constructs reality through the process of interpretation. Through phenomenological-existential and psychoanalytic analysis, this study uncovers how abstract imagery operates in the liminal domain between objective reality and subjective construction, as well as its implications for the understanding of love, dreams, and consciousness in the context of contemporary psychology.

Keywords: abstract image figuration, psychological configuration, interpretive apparatus, reality construction, existential phenomenology, psychoanalysis, interpretive consciousness, illusion vs imagination, transitional space, contemporary subjectivity

Introduction

In the contemporary psychology landscape, fundamental questions about the ontology of subjective experience and the construction of reality through the apparatus of consciousness have become a central focus that demands a radical reconceptualization of traditional understandings of objectivity and subjectivity. The figuration and configuration of abstract images, as manifestations of complex

interpretive processes, offer new perspectives in understanding how subjects organize and interpret their experiences in an ever-changing world (Sartre, 1943; Deleuze & Guattari, 1980).

Theoretical Framework: Existentialism and the Philosophy of Differentiation

In Sartrean's existentialist context, consciousness is understood as être-pour-soi (being-for-itself) which is fundamentally different from être-en-soi (being-in-itself) material objects. Consciousness, in this sense, does not have a fixed essence, but is always in the process of becoming through the act of interpretation and projection of meaning (Sartre, 1943). This perspective shows that abstract imagery is not a passive representation of external reality, but rather an active construct created through the intentional process of consciousness.

Meanwhile, the Deleuzian philosophy of differentiation offers a more complex framework for understanding how abstract imagery operates as an assemblage or series that creates new fields of immanence. In Deleuze's conception, reality is not understood as a stable structure, but rather as a constantly changing flow of intensity, in which subjects and objects are formed in a dynamic process of becoming (Deleuze, 1968; Deleuze & Guattari, 1980). This implies that abstract imagery figuration is a manifestation of a virtual force that actualizes itself in various temporal configurations.

Psychoanalytic Mechanisms: Dreams as Interpretation Models

The Freudian analysis of dreams in "Die Traumdeutung" (1900) provides a relevant theoretical model for understanding how consciousness operates in constructing abstract images. Freud explained that dreams function as manifestations of the subconscious that manage the structure of reality through the mechanisms of condensation (Verdichtung) and displacement (Verschiebung). In this context, dreams can be understood as "control abstractions" that function in the balance of libidinal energy or ego.

The phenomenon of dreams reveals a fundamental paradox in the construction of subjective reality: although dreams appear to be creating something new and imaginative, such as a "pink elephant", the construction remains tied to the archives of previous empirical experience. The pink elephant, in this analysis, is not creatio ex nihilo, but rather a recombination of elements that have already been observed and internalized

in psychic structures (Freud, 1900). This suggests that even in the most radical dreaming freedom, the subject remains trapped in the pre-existing representation economy.

Love as an Interpretive Construct

In the context of contemporary psychology, love cannot be understood as a substantial entity that has a fixed essence, but rather as an interpretive construct that "exists because it is interpreted to exist". Phenomenological analysis of the experience of love reveals that what is conventionally thought to be a manifestation of pure love—such as a mother's kiss to her child—can be re-read through various layers of complex motives: the preservation of maternal identity, disciplinary power strategies, or the hidden libidinal economy (Foucault, 1975; Lacan, 1966).

The construction of love as an abstract image shows how subjectivity and sentimentality in interpersonal relationships can transform the concept of existence itself. The poetic phrase "there is no more, there is only you and me" reflects how self-awareness in the experience of love creates a world that is reduced to a purely intersubjective relation, in which existence is no longer understood as an objective existence-within-self, but rather as a meaningful existence-for-the other.

The Distinction of Illusion and Imagination in a Psychological Context

In the framework of contemporary psychology, the distinction between illusion and imagination is crucial in understanding the adaptive function of abstract image figuration. Illusion is defined as a condition in which interpretation becomes excessive to the point of creating a deconstructive distortion of psychological balance, while imagination refers to interpretation that functions productively in maintaining balance and healthy psychic control.

This distinction is reminiscent of Winnicott's concept of "transitional space"—the space between objective and subjective reality that allows subjects to function adaptively (Winnicott, 1951). Imagination, in this sense, is the constructive use of transitional space, while illusion is when the space becomes overwhelming and interferes with the functioning of the ego. This evaluative framework provides concrete criteria that are not a matter of ontological error, but a matter of functionality and psychological balance.

Implications for Contemporary Psychology

An analysis of the figuration and configuration of abstract images in contemporary psychology reveals several significant theoretical and practical implications. First, the understanding of consciousness as an active interpretive apparatus challenges the traditional positivistic paradigm that rigidly separates between subject and object, reality and representation. Second, the conceptualization of love, dreams, and other subjective experiences as interpretive constructs opens up space for a more holistic and contextual therapeutic approach.

Third, the distinction between illusion and imagination provides a diagnostic framework that can be applied in clinical practice to evaluate mental health based on psychological functionality rather than adherence to rigid objective norms. This is in line with the development of humanistic and existential psychology that emphasizes the importance of meaning and authenticity in human experience.

Conclusion

The figuration and configuration of abstract imagery in contemporary psychology reveals the complexity of the process of constructing reality through the apparatus of interpretive consciousness. Through phenomenological-existential and psychoanalytic analysis, this study shows that subjective experiences such as love and dreams cannot be understood as passive representations of objective reality, but rather as active constructions created through complex processes of interpretation.

This understanding has important implications for the development of contemporary psychological theory and practice, especially in terms of developing therapeutic approaches that are more sensitive to the interpretive and constructive dimensions of human experience. The distinction between illusion and imagination as functional evaluative criteria offers an alternative to traditional pathological paradigms that often ignore the complexity and creativity inherent in the process of constructing subjective meaning.

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